

THE VIRASAIIVA MOVEMENT

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"Alas! my Master, you are without any pity.
Alas! my
God, you have no mercy. Why did you make
me such
a travailer on the earth? Why did you create
me hopeless
of heaven? Why did you give me birth? O God
Kudala
Sangama, listen and tell me. Could you not
have made
some plant or tree rather than me?"

To the desolation of this helplessness
Basavanna
could imagine no conclusion except that of
God taking
pity and coming to help.

"Like the cow which has lost its way in the
jungle, I am
crying Amba, Amba. I shall be calling, God
Kudala
Sangama, until you tell me 'Live thou and be
immortal'."

The simile of the cow and the owner is
embodied in
one of the names of Siva: Pasupati. He is
the Lord
of lives and each life is his property. Each
life is
therefore entitled to call on him for help
and if he
likes it is saved.

"If you are gracious, the dry stick will give
forth shoots.
If you are gracious, the dry cow will give
milk. With
your grace, poison would become ambrosia.
With your
grace, all good would be at hand. O God
Kudala
Sangama I"

Most teachers try to lead man to the
love of God
by saying that the life of the world is no
unmixed
blessing. This teacher follows the same
course. Man
In his short existence here thinking of food
and rai-
ment seemed to him as to his class like
the lamb that
is brought to slaughter and eats the leaf
tied for deco-
ration. Not knowing that it is brought to

die, it feeds
Its pitiful carcass. Not only is man
thinking of food
and raiment more than of his immortal
soul but for
getting these comparatively valueless
things he will
walk through evil. The frog is caught in
the mouth